international market seized under "Operation Swastika from the northern part of the country from May, 1996 till date, month-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of smugglers arrested in this regard; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to further strengthen the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence which is running shortage of trained personnel?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Directorate of Revenue Intelligence in an anti-narcotics operation code name "Swastika" seized 83.770 Kgs. of Heroin from a truck in Delhi on 23.9.96. International value of Seized Heroin is estimated to be Rs.83.77 Crores in the illicit market.

(b) No arrest has been made in the case so far.

(c) Government are making constant efforts to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence by suitable augmentation of specialised equipment, Vehicles and other support measures. However, there is no shortage of trained personnel in Directorate of Revenue Intelligence.

Export of Manmade Fibre

4267. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of manmade fibre from Gujarat particularly from Surat has declined during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the factors responsible for such decline; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the export of manmade fibre?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b). India's man-made textile exports have increased from US $ 587.81 million in 1993-94 to US $ 935.21 million in 1996-96. The region-wise export figures are, however, not maintained.

(c) In order to boost the exports of man-made textiles from all parts of the country, including Surat, Government have been taking a number of steps such as encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production, special arrangement for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

Corruption Charges Against Management of PNB

4268. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether serious allegations of corruption and mismanagement have been levelled against the management of the Punjab National Bank;

(b) whether some of these allegations are now being examined by the High Court of Delhi;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to deal with these allegations effectively; and

(d) the action taken against the officials involved in defalcation and other financial irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Allegations of corruption/ mis-management were received against some of the executive of Punjab National Bank. These were referred to Reserve Bank of India/Chief Vigilance Officer of the bank for appropriate action.

The Punjab National Bank (PNB) has reported that a Writ Petition has been filed before the Delhi High Court by All India New Bank of India Employees Federation alleging certain financial irregularities. According to the information furnished by the bank, notice on the above petition has been issued by the Court on 15.11.1996. The matter is subjudice.

According to the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India, during the years 1993-95, five employees of PNB were convicted, 481 employees were awarded major/minor penalties including dismissal/removal of 105 employees for involvement in frauds.

High Cost Funds

4269. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that high cost of funds is resulting in with holding of investment by enterprises;

(b) if so, the likely adverse effect thereof on growth rate of industry during 1996-97; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to ensure availability of adequate amount of cheaper funds to the industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). The industry and trade associations have earlier been expressing concerns about high cost of funds. However, there is no conclusive evidence that this has resulted in withholding of investment by enterprises. In the busy season credit policy for 1996-97, Government has already initiated steps to improve liquidity and to reduce the cost of the funds to industry.

Hunger Strike by Officers of Central Bank, Jabalpur

4270. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Bank